IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE :—

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McLENNAN, John Cunningham

Professor of Physics - now in London

November 1918 — June 1919

(056)

November 29th, 1918

Professor J. C. McLennan, F.R.S., O.B.E.,

London, England.

My dear Professor McLennan:

You will have heard before this I suppose from Dr. Burton to the effect that the work of the Department of Physics is so heavy this winter that they are unable to get along with the staff that they now have. The attendance in Medicine is almost unprecedented and with the close of the war students are coming in rapidly. Dr. Burton suggests that the most satisfactory way of meeting the situation is to have the immediate return to the Department of either Dr. Gilchrist or Mr. McTaggart, and if neither of them can come to recall Mr. Ainslie or Mr. Kaye. Of course if Mr. McTaggart were to be recalled we could get him very soon, as he is now on this side. Would you mind cabling on receipt of this letter to say whether you will have any objection to have Mr. McTaggart remain ?

At present the work is being carried on under extreme difficulty, but Professor Burton is afraid that Miss Foster, who is giving excellent service as a demonstrator, may not be able to stand the strain. Possibly Gilchrist might be spared from Orpington Hospital, though doubtless there will be a great deal of work for the X- ray department until the surgical cases are well out of the way, and that cannot be, I should suppose, for some months yet.

I wonder what effect the ceasing of

hostilities has had upon your work, and whether your plans for the future are becoming any clearer than they were.

We shall soon be back into our old running order again. A marked change has already come over the University.

I hope that Mrs. McLennan and yourself have escaped the flu. It was bad enough here, though from a letter I have just had from Murray in Saskatchewan I infer that we escaped with much less severity than they did in the West. Dr. Fred Starr also writes me that it has been very bad in England. I hope, however, that the worst is now over.

With kind regards to Mrs. McLennan and yourself,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

CANADIAN PACIFIC R'Y. CO.'S TELEGRAPH

FORM T. D. 1 M.

TELEGRAM

129

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J. McMILLAN, Manager Telegraphs, Montreal.

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20 gec 76 Govt Cable

London Dec 16

Sir Robert Falconer

University of Toronto

Toronto .

Regret exceedingly Gilchrist McTaggart Ainslie and Keys Cannot be psraed without serious loss stop J F Twiss known to Dawes and W W E Ross known to Lash Miller could leave in a week or ten days stop Asbury Could go about a week later and is available if board of Education would allow his substitute to continue at Harbord until spring stop Please cable your wishes .

Professor McLennan

Your nearest Telegraph office is
Hanna's Drug Store
221 Spadina Ave
Telephone College 220

CANADIAN PACIFIC R'Y. CO.'S TELEGRAM

FORM T. D. 1

128

TELEGRAM

CABLE CONNECTIONS TO ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD

J. McMILLAN, Manager Telegraphs, Montreal.

TENOH... C1631

A 212 RA MU 17 Govt pasln pasmont

1525

London Dec 20

President Falconer
University of Toronto

Toronto

Ross and Twiss sail december 28 asbury january 10
Professor McLennan

725pm

TENOH...

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE:—

AND ADDRESS "THE SECRETARY."

Personal and Private

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BOARD OF INVENTION AND RESEARCH,
VICTORY HOUSE,
COCKSPUR STREET,
S.W.

December 16, 1918

My dear Sir Robert,

Your letter of November 29 has just come and I wired you to-day to say that after looking into the whole situation I find that Dr.Gilchrist, Captain McTaggart and Messrs Keys and Ainslie cannot be spared without serious loss. Mr. Asbury, however, will be going home soon and if the Board of Education would continue his substitute for him at the Harbord Collegiate Institute until the Spring he would be glad to help out. Mr. Twiss, who was a demonstrator in Physics at Manitoba and was one of Mr. Dawes' men is also going back at once and he also could help. I understand he is a very good man. Then again Mr. W.W.E. Ross, who is a graduate in Chemistry but who understands Physics well , is also going back in a week or ten days. With these three available I think there is no doubt that the work could be done well, and I hope that you will be satisfied with the arrangement.

My own work since the armistice has increased very greatly. Much work has to be finished up. Experiments which are promising have to be completed else much momentum and knowledge will be lost. Mr. Merz, in the Admiralty wishes me to act as Scientific Adviser in these and similar matters, and I am agreeable to help them until the Spring, when I shall come out to Canada to see you all.

The Admiralty are projecting the institution of a Research Laboratory for the Navy, and are talking of providing £ 400,000 for it. Some informal discussions have also taken place between me and the Admiralty authorities and

if it all eventuates they would like me to remain here and be Director of this Laboratory as well as Scientific Adviser to the Navy. However, it is all in the air as yet. It may be that Mr. Merz will sever his connection with the Admiralty within the next week or two and it looks as if I shall have to slip into the breach for a while at least. It is all very disturbing both to myself and Mrs. McLennan as you can readily imagine, and I find it very difficult to orient myself to the new aspect of things.

My heart was in my research work at Toronto. I had struggled and waited for years to get a Research Department there worthy of the name of Research, and from the papers we have published in the last four or five years it was evident that we had arrived. All my life I have been avoiding, whenever I could, administrative work, but somehow these last four or five years a resistless fate seems driving me to it. I will write you again when I can write more definitely. As the situation stands at present to-day, I look upon my place as being back in Toronto in October, but from what you see above it may be that the whole programme will be altered suddenly.

I should be glad if you would kindly let Sir Edmund Walker know the situation. He spoke to me very kindly before I left about my work in Toronto and about the possibilities of my future there. I should like him to know how the situation is going.

Mrs. McLennan joins me in sending kindest regards to you and to Lady Falconer , and with best wishes for Christmas and the New Year,

I am,
Yours sincerely,

J. C. McLennan

President Sir R.A. Falconer,
University of Toronto.
Toronto, Canada.

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Bowland Tow
Midlothian
26/12/18.

BOARD OF INVENTION AND RESEARCH,
VICTORY HOUSE,
COCKSPUR STREET.
S.W. 1.

Dear Sir Robert.

Your cable. — send Lewis immediately engagement five months at one hundred dollars — reached me here this morning.

Just before leaving London I arranged for Lewis and Ross a passage out sailing on Dec 27th i.e. Friday day after tomorrow. Lewis will therefore be back soon. Ross too may be able to help if required though he knows more about advanced Chemistry than advanced Physics

Mr Ashmun & Mr Kirby sail on Jan 10th. The both have posts in the Calliopeatis & Monte but do foresee may be able to help if required when

BOARD OF INVENTION AND RESEARCH,
VICTORY HOUSE,
COCKSPUR STREET.
S.W. 1.

he gets back. He's an exceptionally good man.

Mrs McLennan and I have come up here to spend Xmas with Mr Ramsay who is alone just now. We shall have Evan back in London by the end of the week.

Everything is "hustle and hurry" just now. Lyric's demobilization in Council, too, has its worries and responsibilities.

Best best wishes for the New Year. — Yours very sincerely

J. McLennan

Dr Robert A Falconer K.B.E. M.A. D.D.
President
The University of Toronto

Canadian Pacific Railway
EN ROUTE

[May 8, 1919]?

8/5/19.

Dear Sir Robert:

I had hoped to see you yesterday or today but could not get a chance. but so much to do. how or I am off to Calgary & visit the Alberta Nation mallein will be turned over.

I wished to take up with you the matter of Mrs Stevenson's furniture &c. stored in the Lethbridge vaults.

Bird

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Mrs Gor. She is a delightful ornament to the Government and has won the confidence of the Premier. She is very charming & clever.

Prof Burton said he had been talking with Prof. Robertson about having a glass blower between the Physics & Physiology. This however would not do I practically would need one all the time. and I hope it can be arranged.

The rest of the Estimates perhaps can be held over till I see you and more

Mrs Stevenson is anxious to
check over S Holland how
that danger from loss by
submarines is over.

Do you think the Admiralty
could be induced to pay for the cost of transport
viz £2 If I could I know
he would relieve Mrs Stevenson
from expense she can ill
afford to meet.

Some Jews have been
buying Wheat Mrs Stevenson from
time to time and it is really
wonderful to see how bravely
she meets Life with all its
anxieties and demands.

If you think the
Coast be announced possibly
the Superintendent would
look after the shipping.

Her address is
To Mr Todd
I think Inverbank
Dalkeith.

Prof. Alexander can verify
this I think.

I should also like to
see Captain McTaggart made
an Assistant Professor

Canadian Pacific Railway

EN ROUTE

A talk over the whole
Situation.

There seems always
so much to do.

Yours very sincerely

J. W. Laurier

Sir Robert Falconer K.C.M.G.
Univ. of Toronto

June 2nd, 1919

Professor J. C. McLennan, O.B.E.,
Department of Physics,
University of Toronto.

Dear Professor McLennan:

I am returning you your statement which I have read with a great deal of interest. On page 17 I think I would modify the third, fourth and fifth sentences somewhat. Otherwise I do not see any reason for change, and on the whole the final picture is a good one.

Yours sincerely,

President.